



Testimony of Lori Pelletier

Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO

Before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee

February 17, 2011

Senator Crisco and Representative Megna and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, I am Lori Pelletier and I serve as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, and I'm here to testify on behalf of the 900 affiliated local unions who represent 220,000 working women and men from every city and town in our great state.

I am here to testify in support of the following bills:

S.B. No. 11 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING THE RATE APPROVAL PROCESS FOR HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES. (INS) Since the convening of this legislature last month, and again just yesterday in Governor Malloy's budget address the phrase repeated most often is about shared sacrifice and making government more accountable. Well this bill embodies that phrase. When all workers are being asked to sacrifice, and to give back to help make Connecticut more business friendly, it is so ironic that the very businesses that are driving up costs for both government and private industry are our health insurance rates.

This bill is simple, if rate increases are needed then it should be very simple to come before the legislature and demonstrate the need. When workers are injured on the job, or catch a disease because of their profession they have to go through a process to be compensated for the injury/disease. Let's open up this process of insurance rate increases to the light of day. It's good public policy.

S.B. No. 922 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING NOTIFICATION OF THE SERVICES OF THE OFFICE OF THE HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE. Over the past few years the office of the Healthcare Advocate has been an effective resource for consumers. The only hindrance to helping even more people has been the level of awareness for the agency. This legislation is for the Office of Healthcare Advocate is nothing more than the organ donor information contained in your license renewal. It's just 4-1-1.

Thank you to the Committee for holding this public hearing and we look forward to working with the General Assembly on making these bills become law.

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